

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /106 W

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R 270809Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5023

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

JEMBASSY DAKAR 3303

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR MOPS MR SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: GIRM RECAPITULATES BATTLE ACTION

1. GIRM PUBLISHED DETAILED RECAPITULATION OF POLISARIO ATTACKS ON MAURITANIAN TOWNS IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL OF JANUARY 26 GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAPER. FOLLOWING IS LISTING OF TOWNS AND DAYS THEY WERE ATTACKED BY "ARMED BANDS":

A) 'AIN BEN TILI YKBORDER TOWN ON 26TH PARALLEL) WAS ATTACKED DECEMBER 7 AND 8 AND JANUARY 19, 20, AND 21.

B) BIR MOGHREIN (IN NORTHWEST MAURITANIA ABOUT 30 MILES EAST AND 60 MILES SOUTH OF SAHARAN BORDER) WAS ATTACKED DECEMBER 9, 10, 19, 3PN AND 31 AND JANUARY 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9,

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10, 17, AND 18.

C) INAL (LOCATED ALONG IRON ORE RAIL LINE JUST INSIDE MAURITANIA) WAS ATTACKED DECEMBER 9 AND 10 AND JANUARY 9 AND 10.

D) F'DERIK (30 MILES EAST OF SAHARAN BORDER AND 25 MILES SOUTH OF 23RD PARALLEL) WAS ATTACKED DECEMBER 19.

E) ZOUIRAT (SITE OF IRON ORE MINES SHORT DISTANCE FROM F'DERIK) WAS ATTACKED DECEMBER 31.

F) TOUJIL (LOCATION NOT CERTAIN) WAS ATTACKED JANUARY 1 AND 2.

G) IN ADDITION, GIRM CONVOYS WERE HARASSED BETWEEN BIR MOGHREIN AND ZOUIRAT ON JANUARY 18 AND BETWEEN F'DERIK AND BIR MOGHREIN ON JANUARY 22.

2. EDITORIAL NOTED THAT THESE "ARMED BANDS" HAVE BEEN FURNISHED WITH FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT BY OUTSIDE PARTIES: 105MM CANNON, 120 OR 82MM MORTARS, AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT EQUIPMENT. IN BATTLE AT 'AIN BEN TILI, POLISARIO BROUGHT DOWN MOROCCAN AIRPLANE WITH SAM MISSILE. PLANE REPORTEDLY CAME TO ASSIST ISOLATED MAURITANIAN TROOPS AT 'AIN BEN TILI, WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ABANDONED BY GIRM. MOST OF TROOPS FROM THIS "INDEFENSIBLE" POSITION HAVE REGROUPED AT BIR MOGHREIN.

3. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH LISTING OF SAHARAN VILLAGES WHICH HAVE BEEN "LIBERATED" BY MAURITANIAN FORCES: LA GUERA ON DECEMBER 19, TICHLA ON DECEMBER 20, BIR GANDUS ON JANUARY 6, AARGUB ON JANUARY 10, AND DAKHLA ON JANUARY 12. IN SEPARATE ARTICLE, JANUARY 26 EDITION OF PAPER REPORTED THAT GIRM FORCES CAPTURED AUSERT (AUSERD) ON JANUARY 24. HANDYSIDE

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